

OADBY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the year 1941



Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my third Annual Report on the health of your District.

In accordance with the usual wartime practice, I have included only those matters which are necessary for the maintenance and continuity of the records of the district. At the request of the Ministry of Health, the publication of certain statistics has been suspended and will form the subject of a special post-war supplement.

From the point of view of the general health of the population, I have pleasure in reporting that the year has been entirely satisfactory.

VITAL STATISTICS

Birth rate per thousand estimated resident population 1941...	13.0
Birth rate for England and Wales 1941.....	14.2
Death rate (crude) per thousand estimated population.....	10.2
Death rate (standardised).....	not available
Death rate for England and Wales.....	12.9
Puerperal mortality rate.....	nil
Puerperal mortality rate for England and Wales per thousand live and still births.....	2.23
Infantile mortality rate per thousand live births.....	39
Infantile mortality rate for England and Wales.....	59

There were no deaths of illegitimate infants in Oadby during the year.

Recording of Vital Statistics During Wartime

The registration of vital statistics has been continued according to the Registrar-General's wartime rules. These were described in full on page 4 of the annual report for last year.

From 1st June, 1941, women belonging to certain branches of H.M. Forces have ceased to be treated as civilians. Any deaths occurring amongst these women have therefore been excluded from local records.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

I am indebted to the Sanitary Inspector, Mr. Edgar Fryer, for the following details:-

Water Supply, Drainage and Sewage

There have been no changes of importance in these services. An auxiliary electric pump was installed at the Stoughton Lane Sewer Ejector Chamber in order to relieve congestion in that district.

Public Cleansing and Salvage

A fortnightly collection of house refuse is carried out by the Council's staff, who also undertake the emptying of pail closets and cesspools.

An energetic salvage campaign has been carried out by the Council, and paper, rags, bones, bottles, jars, ferrous and non-ferrous metals and kitchen refuse are collected.

Closet Accommodation

Total numbers in the district on 31st December, 1941

(a) Privies	-	nil
(b) Pail closets	-	34
(c) Water closets	-	1713

Sanitary Inspection of the Area

Total number of complaints received during the year	6
" " " defects or nuisances discovered	31
" " " inspections	269
" " " preliminary notices served (Housing	7
" " " " (Other notices	23
" " " " complied with (Housing	7
" " " " (Other notices	23

No statutory or summary action has been taken during the year.

Eradication of Bed Bugs

No. of dwelling houses found infested ... nil

Inspection of Dwelling Houses

- (a) Total no. of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) 107
- (b) No. of inspections made for the purpose 113
- No. of dwelling houses (included under sub head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidation Regulations 1925 and 1932 nil
- No. of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation nil
- No. of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceeding sub head) found to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation 3
- No. of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the local authority or its officers 3
- No. of defective dwelling houses in respect of which action under statutory powers was taken nil
- No. of cases of overcrowding reported during the year nil
- No. of houses erected during 1941 nil

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Milk

Retailers:-	No. on register	22
(other than	No. of inspections of premises	6
cowkeepers)	No. of contraventions found	nil
Producers:-	No. on register	7
(Including those	No. of inspections made	10
who retail milk)	No. of contraventions found	nil

Meat and Other Foods

There are no regional slaughter houses in the district.

43 animals (42 pigs and 1 sheep) have been slaughtered in the district during the year. No carcasses were condemned.

No. of Inspections

Meat Stalls	nil
Meat Shops and Stores	18
Places where food (other than meat) is kept and prepared for sale	10

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Notifiable Diseases

The incidence of infectious disease was remarkably low during 1941 and the following were the only cases notified:-

	<u>No. of Cases</u>	<u>Ages</u>
Scarlet Fever	6	4, 4, 4, 9, 12 & 54
Whooping Cough	5	1, 3, 4, 5, 7
Measles	3	3, 5, 6
Pneumonia	1	41
Cerebro-spinal Fever	1	28

No cases of smallpox, diphtheria, enteric fever, encephalitis lethargica, erysipilas or puerperal pyrexia were notified.

Four cases of scarlet fever and one of cerebro-spinal fever were admitted to hospital. There were no deaths among the cases of infectious disease notified but five deaths were registered of persons dying from pneumonia.

Diphtheria Immunisation

Remarkably few cases of diphtheria have occurred in the district during recent years. It has however been frequently shown that the severest epidemics often occur in areas previously free from the disease and thus it is necessary to guard against a false sense of security.

A scheme for offering free immunisation to all children under the age of 15 was inaugurated at the beginning of 1941. Immunisation clinics were organised at both the infant's and the senior schools during February and March. Any children who were not immunised at those sessions were subsequently offered immunisation by attending a monthly clinic which has been conducted by your medical officer on Saturday mornings in the County Health Department, Leicester.

186 Children under the age of 5 years and 433 children aged 5 years and over but under 15 were immunised during the year.

On 31st December, 1941, it was estimated that 46% of the child population under 5 years of age and 70% of the child population aged 5-15 had been immunised.

No case of diphtheria has occurred in any immunised child in the district.

Scabies

The incidence of scabies has remained low throughout the year.

Tuberculosis

Two new cases were notified of respiratory tuberculosis (males aged 18 and 44 years respectively) and one new case of non-respiratory tuberculosis (male aged 67)

Two deaths occurred. Both were of the respiratory type and were in males aged 24 and 44 respectively. Both had been previously notified.

EVACUATION

The Government Evacuation Scheme continued in operation throughout the year. The total numbers of evacuees billeted (98 expectant mothers, 60 other evacuees) was however considerably smaller than in the previous year.

The County Council Emergency Maternity Home at the Wayside, Oadby, has been in use throughout the year, and consequently many expectant mothers are evacuated to the district. Towards the end of 1941 a large house - the Oadby Frith - was requisitioned by your Clerk for the purpose of establishing a Pre-natal Hostel. The Hostel was equipped and opened in April 1942 and has proved of great use in relieving the strain on the billeting arrangements of the district.

I have the honour to be,

Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

ALEC E. MARTIN, M.D., D.P.H.,

Medical Officer of Health